

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/104 W

----- 055847

R 071752Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8832

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 641

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

DAR ES SALAAM 170

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSH KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MALABO

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AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MONTROVIA
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: THE LOME CONVENTION AND REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: A) TANANARIVE 781 (NOTAL)

B) STATE 103453 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL B INSTRUCTED THE MISSION TO DISCUSS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION THE REPORT IN REFTEL A THAT EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAD USED THE LOME NEGOTIATIONS TO TRY TO PERSUADE ACP COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN REVERSE PREFERENCES FOR SOME TIME AFTER THE LOME CONVENTION RATIFICATION ELIMINATES SUCH REQUIREMENTS.

2. ON MAY 7 WE BROUGHT THE POINTS IN REFTEL B TO THE ATTENTION OF FOLEY, COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENRAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOME NEGOTIATIONS. FOLEY GAVE US A FLAT ASSURANCE THAT IT WAS NOT THE COMMISSION'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE RETENTION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES. THE LOME CONVENTION PROVIDED THAT THE ACP COUNTRIES COULD ELIMINATE THE REVERSE PREFERENCES IF THEY WISHED TO. IT DID NOT REQUIRE THAT THEY DO SO.

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HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION, DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, RECOGNIZED THE EXTREME POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE, ESPECIALLY SINCE MOST OF THE ACPS THEMSELVES WERE SO OPPOSED TO THE CONTINUATION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES. HE ALSO ASSURED US THE ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY AID TO THE ACPS WOULD NOT BE USED AS LEVERAGE TO PREVENT IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.

3. FLELEY SAID THAT THE EXPLANATION FOR THE REPORT IN REFETEL A MAY LIE IN THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN MADAGASCAR. AFTER THE COUP, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SWUNG INTO AN ANTI-ESTERN POSITION. SUBSEQUENTLY, IT HAS BEEN MAKING AN EFFORT TO GO IN THE OTHER DIRECTION AND CULTIVATE ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. FOLEY DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT THE FRENCH MIGHT BE USING THE PROMISE OF FRENCH AID AS A LEVER TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE A SLOWING DOWN IN THE ABOLITION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES NOR THAT ON THE MARGINS OF THE LOME NEGOTIATIONS SOME FRENCHMEN IN THE COMMISSION MIGHT HAVE PRIVATELY SUGGESTED A PHASE-OUT. IT WAS CLEAR THAT FOLEY WAS NOT SUGGESTING HE HAD ANY POSITIVE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH FRENCH ACTIONS, HOWEVER.) HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT HE WANTED US TO UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT IT IS NOT THE COMMISSIONS POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THE RETENTION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES.MYERSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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